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TAGS: [AORC](#) [ENRG](#) [IR](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [MOPS](#) [PARM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)  
UK, UNGA  
SUBJECT: THE ROAD TO 2010: HMG'S STRATEGY FOR THE NUCLEAR  
NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE -- AND BEYOND

REF: LONDON 00444

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Greg Berry  
for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Summary. On July 16, the Cabinet Office released a 52-page document entitled "The Road to 2010 - Addressing the Nuclear Question in the Twenty First Century," which charts the UK's road map to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in April-May 2010. The document (full text available at [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)) describes the UK's strategic objectives on issues such as the safe expansion of civil nuclear power, fissile material security, and nuclear counter-terrorism, all within the larger framework of issues related to nuclear nonproliferation. "The Road to 2010" proposes creating a UK "Nuclear Centre of Excellence" in the UK that will work to secure existing stocks of nuclear material, develop proliferation-resistant civilian nuclear reactor fuels, and improve access to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for countries that abide by international rules. HMG officials have stressed that they want the NPT Review Conference to be a success and they view the goals and strategies enumerated in "The Road to 2010" as outlining the UK's views on ways to attain that success. UK officials have repeatedly underscored that HMG wants to be in synch with the U.S. in the lead up to the NPT Review Conference -- and they have expressed appreciation for President Obama's reinvigoration of the global nonproliferation agenda. End Summary.

On the Road...  
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12. (U) The Cabinet Office released July 16, 2009, a 52-page document entitled "The Road to 2010 - Addressing the Nuclear Question in the Twenty-First Century " which charts the UK's road map leading up to the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in April-May 2010 (full text available at [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)). The "Road to 2010" stresses that HMG will work to further develop proliferation-resistant nuclear technology that will improve international access to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Prime Minister Gordon Brown states in the foreword that the UK's "objective remains the reduction and eventual elimination of all such (nuclear) weapons." The roadmap stresses the need to develop a more coherent global strategy to harness peaceful nuclear power and establish conditions to create a world free of nuclear weapons. Brown notes the UK is playing a leading role in tackling nuclear challenges and praises President Obama's plans for a nuclear security summit in Spring 2010. The report expresses resolve to address,

multilaterally, urgent challenges to the nonproliferation regime, such as those posed by Iran and North Korea.

¶3. (U) "The Road to 2010" defines the following goals:

Establish conditions for nuclear power to play a part in combating climate change, global poverty, and energy shortages;

Ensure that nuclear material is held securely to prevent it falling into the hands of terrorist groups or hostile states;

Take urgent action to address the proliferation of nuclear weapons; and,

Make progress in building the international partnerships needed to create a world free from nuclear weapons.

#### Centre of Excellence

¶4. (U) "The Road to 2010" proposes creating a UK "Nuclear Centre of Excellence" that will work to secure existing stocks of nuclear material, develop proliferation-resistant civilian nuclear reactor fuels, and improve access to the peaceful use of nuclear energy for countries that abide by international rules. The goal of the Centre is to promote wider access to civil nuclear power across the world and to allow countries to exercise their right to the peaceful use of nuclear power as set forth in the NPT. According to the

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report, the Centre will receive an initial funding of 20 million pounds (33 million USD) from HMG. The report states that HMG will continue to offer assistance to nations that wish to improve the security of their nuclear materials.

#### What the UK Has Done -- So Far

¶5. (U) One section of the roadmap report describes significant progress which the UK has made in advancing disarmament and non-proliferation goals. The report states, among other enumerated accomplishments, that the UK has:

##### On Disarmament:

Reduced the explosive power of its nuclear arsenal by 75 percent since the end of the Cold War, reducing the number of operationally available warheads to no more than 160;

Moved to a minimum strategic deterrent based on one system with an alert status held on several days' notice to fire and weapons that are not targeted at any country;

Decided to reduce the number of missile tubes on future submarines from 16 to 12;

Carried out groundbreaking work on verification, building the UK's expertise in order to become a "disarmament laboratory";

Increased transparency, declaring historical records of UK defense holdings of fissile material and placing excess military stocks under international safeguards; and,

Ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), one of the first to do so. The UK continues to maintain a moratorium on testing following a final nuclear test explosion in 1991.

##### On Non-proliferation:

Pushed for early engagement on a new IAEA-led system to help states secure fuel for new civil nuclear power programs;

Continued to seek agreement on tougher controls to reduce weapons and prevent proliferation, particularly focusing on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The report recites that the UK welcomes, in particular, President Obama's commitment to seek ratification of the CTBT and call on other states to ratify the treaty as soon as possible;

Played a key role in the process that led to Libya renouncing its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons program in 2003;

Taken the lead in developing tools to counter the financing of proliferation in the UN, EU and the Financial Action Task Force; and,

Committed up to 750 million USD from 2002 to 2012 to the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

Comment: Synergy with U.S. Leadership

16. (C/NF) "The Road to 2010" reflects goals and strategies that are in line with HMG's long-term commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament, as expressed by PM Brown earlier this year (Ref) and as enumerated in the report (see paragraph 5). HMG officials have repeatedly expressed to us their appreciation of President Obama's groundbreaking Prague speech -- a view echoed by Conservative Shadow Foreign Secretary Hague in a major foreign policy speech in July. Indeed, UK officials have affirmed to us that HMG wants to be "in synch" with the U.S. in the lead up to the NPT 2010 Review Conference -- and beyond. They demonstrated this commitment by consulting with senior U.S. officials on the draft text of "The Road to 2010." We anticipate that HMG's commitment to working closely with the U.S. on issues related to nuclear nonproliferation, arms control, and disarmament will remain

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steadfast, under either a Labour or Conservative government, and that U.S.-UK cooperation on these issues will continue to be an important aspect of our bilateral relationship. End Comment.

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